

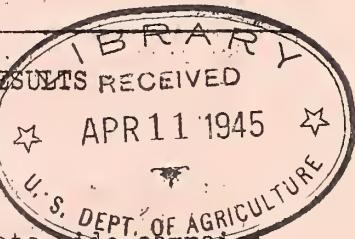
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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS RECEIVED
BASED ON STATE REPORTS



Some high lights of this week's summary: A plan for a State-wide campaign to encourage food preservation and storing; cooperative marketing to Army camps by farmers in adjacent areas; and reports on farm labor.

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LOUISIANA

September 1, 1943.

Farm labor. -Concerted efforts were made by Extension to overcome shortage of 136,621 farm workers who have left Louisiana farms since beginning of war. Survey showed approximately 100,000 harvesters needed to gather cotton, rice, and sugarcane crops, largest anticipated yield in many years. Extension farm organization specialist appointed State supervisor, Emergency Farm Labor recruiting organization. Through meetings, newspaper and radio publicity, State-wide appeal made for voluntary enlistment of men and women, older boys and girls, to harvest crops. Special information on each crop, supplied to newspapers serving production areas, gave opportunity to State press to promote sponsored advertising, widely and effectively used.

Brief informative statements supplied ministers of various congregations throughout State as basis of appeal for workers. Each district of State organized by parishes under direction of county agents to obtain local quota. In northeastern Louisiana, part of cotton area, noteworthy cooperation obtained from Negro leaders, who had ample help from members of their race.

Commodity crops. -Acreage of cotton this fall estimated by crop-reporting bureau at 996,000 acres, 2 percent less than last year, but expected to produce 710,000 bales, as against 593,000 bales in 1942. Value of anticipated yield of lint is \$71,000,000, in addition to \$15,000,000 for cottonseed. Estimated rice acreage is 620,000 acres; estimated yield, 6,820,000 barrels, with value to Louisiana farmers of \$42,960,000. Sugarcane acreage to be harvested for sugar this year is 270,000 acres; estimated yield of sugarcane, 5,400,000 tons; value of raw sugar crop, \$33,570,000; yield of commercial blackstrap molasses, 35,000,000 gallons; value of blackstrap molasses, \$6,300,000.

SUMMARY NO. 68, WARTIME EXTENSION WORK, LOUISIANA, SEPTEMBER 11, 1943

Aid to draft boards. - At request of military draft board authorities, an extension farm-management specialist was assigned as agricultural adviser to aid in determining qualifications for deferment among draftees from Louisiana farms.

Sweetpotato harvest. - Bumper crop of over 8,000,000 bushels of sweetpotatoes expected to be harvested. Meetings to discuss plans for orderly marketing arranged throughout sweetpotato belt.

Fall gardens. - In spite of protracted drought, fall gardening well under way. Virtually every urban and rural home where gardens had been planted in spring, has repeated program for fall growing, even though many gardens have had to be replanted two or three times because of continued dry weather. Though no definite figures are available, 50 percent of urban homes and 98 percent of farms are believed to have gardens.

Food preservation. - Farm and town housewives throughout State have been active in canning and preserving vegetables, fruit, and meats for winter use. Volume of food preservation is estimated to be at least 50 percent more this year than in 1942.

MISSISSIPPI

August 1, 1943

Farm labor. - Requirements for harvesting fall crops being determined and labor recruited to meet expected needs. In 1 month 7,758 workers recruited by Extension and placed on Mississippi farms. In addition, thousands of farmers took part in neighborhood labor exchange. Problem of meeting shortages of both labor and machinery being solved, to large extent, by practice of swapping with neighbors in time of need.

Total of 666 white farmers from 21 counties, mostly in areas where severe drought reduced crops and labor needs, were sent to North Dakota to assist farmers in harvesting 200,000,000 bushels of grain. Contracts made with agricultural workers by War Food Administration specified that all Mississippi workers would be returned home by September 10 to assist in this State's cotton picking. Out-of-State recruiting now over, Mississippi and other Southern States thus had definite part in saving food that would have been lost without their help.

Marketing. - Extension's organized farm production and cooperative marketing to Army camps in Mississippi is proving profitable to producers and satisfactory to camp officials. Five counties adjacent to Grenada sold to Camp McCain 25,990 dozen roasting ears of sweet corn at average price of 28 cents a dozen, realizing total of \$7,277.20. Army officials were highly pleased with quality of corn delivered. This was first year farmers in area had ever produced sweet corn for market.

Camp Shelby area, around Hattiesburg, where marketing program has been in operation 3 years, had much wider variety of products, including corn, beans, tomatoes, peas, squash, pepper, butter eggs, and watermelons. Total

of \$35,904.91 worth of these products was sold to Camp Shelby during July. Other farm products sold through county marketing units, with assistance of extension agents, included livestock, poultry and eggs, wool, fruits, vegetables, and farm seeds, for total of \$177,419.29.

Better rural homes. -Program for 1943, based largely on maintenance and repairs, to draw as little as possible on essential war materials. Reports from 715 communities in 66 counties show repairs made on 9,724 homes, white and Negro. Repairs consisted mainly of screening; outside and inside repairs to homes, including construction of 1,427 sanitary toilets; improving home water supply; beautifying home grounds.

4-H Clubs. -Club camps, ordinarily held in July, were not encouraged this year because of transportation problems and labor shortage. However, where too much transportation or too long a time away from home were not involved, camps were held by 27 counties and attended by 2,182 club members and leaders. Instruction staff was furnished largely by Extension, to give training in conservation, first aid, and recreation.

Realizing importance of recreational activities for youth in wartime as well as normally, 15 counties held 1-day picnics, with total attendance of 3,000 club members, and other counties sponsored community picnics.

At State Poultry Association meeting, 54 4-H Club members from 29 counties took part in State 4-H poultry-judging contest. Three with highest scores were selected to represent Mississippi in National 4-H Poultry-Judging Contest at Chicago, Ill., in December.

Sweetpotato program. -Reports from 72 counties, with storage facilities for 1,350,924 bushels, indicate production of 3,412,045 bushels of sweetpotatoes for market during 1943-44 season. It is estimated that 1,176,369 bushels will be sold this fall to Food Distribution Administration (estimate made prior to announcement of new support prices for stored sweetpotatoes), leaving nearly 900,000 bushels for which no storage facilities are available. In effort to meet situation Extension has furnished farm storage-house models to 60 county agents, along with blueprints and instructions on building new or converting old buildings into suitable storage houses. More than 750 copies of blueprint distributed to growers. Circular letters, news articles, method demonstrations, and meetings used by extension specialists, county agents, and leaders in this educational program. Series of 10 group meetings scheduled for September to train agents and leaders in proper methods of harvesting, handling, grading, packing, storing, and marketing sweetpotatoes.

Poultry. -Annual meeting of Mississippi Poultry Improvement Association at Jackson attended by 200 poultrymen. State Poultry Advisory Council, with extension poultry specialist as chairman, named to cooperate with National Poultry Advisory Council in promoting poultry industry and to assist in meeting wartime production goals. Much thought being given to planning 1944 poultry improvement program.

Rural leaders' training course. -Fourteen county and State extension agents participated in leaders' training course sponsored by school of education

of State college. Course dealt largely with national, regional, State, and local post-war problems and methods of solving them. Total of 45 rural leaders, representing FSA, SCS, school superintendents, county health departments, and rural ministers, enrolled for course.

MISSOURI. - This afternoon meeting

August 14, 1943, held at Columbia, Missouri.

Food preservation and storage. - Realizing extreme importance of saving every possible food for its maximum use, Missouri Extension Service is placing major emphasis on food preservation and storage. A week was devoted to series of food preservation and storage conferences. Two teams, each consisting of nutrition, agricultural engineering, and horticulture specialists, met with all county extension agents and home demonstration agents in State, by districts. Current food situation and preservation and storage facilities in each county were presented. Subject matter was given by specialists on contribution of vegetables to winter diet; late plantings of fall vegetables for fresh use, canning, and storing; and types of storage structures. In afternoon county agents met for demonstrations on building and using various means of storage, such as pit, box, barrel, and jar, and detailed presentation of plans for building effective storage cellar. Home demonstration agents met in another group for demonstrations on drying, brining, and sulfuring.

As follow-up of these conferences, plans are now in operation to assist agents in carrying this information to people in their counties. Plans include following methods to encourage plantings for fall use, preserving, and storing, with aim of making full use of all facilities, and construction of adequate storage structures:

1. Map of storage pit, together with details of building and use, made available to all agents for local newspapers.
2. Each week, series of six subject-matter articles, under heading, "Next Week in the Garden," prepared and sent to all county agents in State. Articles emphasize production, handling, and storing of vegetables. Also weekly series of six subject-matter articles, under heading "Next Week in the Kitchen," is prepared and sent to all home demonstration agents. Articles deal with effective preparation, use, drying, brining, and sulfuring of food products.
3. In addition to these subject-matter articles, some newspapers devote special sections to planting and preservation suggestions.
4. "Canning Aides" or local leaders assist in carrying information to their neighborhoods.
5. Radio is used to broadcast subject-matter material, such as articles.
6. Demonstrations of drying, brining, and use of simple storage, such as pit, barrel, box, and jar, are held by agents and leaders in counties.
7. Coordination of effort of all interested agencies is obtained in holding meetings all over counties.
8. Displays of pit storages are made at fairs, achievement days, and other gatherings.
9. Slatted crates for storage containers are constructed and displayed in all counties.
10. Individuals and contractors who contemplate building storage cellars are encouraged to build recommended structures.